



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. V. J. Livingston
President
The First National Bank of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Livingston:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 9 inviting me to appear before your Monetary Conference on March 18, 1955 as a participating panelist in the scheduled session on "Russia".

Most reluctantly ~~I am afraid~~ I shall have to decline your kind invitation. ~~I have found that~~ My official obligations requiring ~~me to~~ address various service schools and other components of the United States Government necessitate ~~my~~ eliminating many other outside activities in which I would otherwise be ~~delighted~~ to participate. Further, as *you* ~~I am sure you will understand~~, it is sometimes difficult and inappropriate for me to take part in public discussions on possibly controversial matters because of my official position as Director of Central Intelligence.

It is with decided regret, therefore, that I decline the opportunity to be present with you on March 18. However, I wish the conference and its participants the very best of success.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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